*Below is an email template that you can use to reach out to your local federal member of parliament. Remove any text in yellow and edit where necessary.* ***Please take the time to personalise the email by adding your own thoughts and lived experience – this will make your email stand out.***

**Email:**

[Use [this website](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members) to find your local federal member of parliament and address the start of your email to them using their correct title, e.g. Dear The Hon Michael Sukkar MP]

[Provide a brief introduction to who you are, mention that you are in their electorate, and any connections you have with the local community].

I am writing to bring your attention to the needs of nearly 180,000 Australians living with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The attached Information for Decision Makers document provides a summary of the solution for the urgent problems identified in the State of the Nation for Inflammatory Bowel Disease report launched in February by Hon Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care. [Ensure you attach the [Information for Decision Makers document](https://crohnsandcolitis.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Information-for-Decision-Makers.docx)]

IBD refers to a group of chronic, relapsing immune-mediated conditions that cause severe inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract. The most common IBD conditions are Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis and they both have debilitating symptoms with significant impacts on quality of life.

IBD has a total economic burden of **$7.8 billion** estimated in 2025, including $759 million from hospital and emergency department visits. The full health and economic impacts of IBD are detailed in the recently published [IBD State of the Nation Report.](https://crohnsandcolitis.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/State-of-the-Nation-in-IBD-Report.pdf)

We urgently need your support to stop IBD patients from falling through the cracks of our Australian federated health system. Crohn’s & Colitis Australia, with support from health professional peak bodies, have proposed a “Living Well with IBD” program in primary care. This program aims to support priority population groups to access multi-disciplinary care, which is the pillar of high-quality healthcare.

A detailed pre-budget submission has been forwarded to Treasury, and I believe you will find the issues raised in the *Improving the* *State of the Nation in Inflammatory Bowel Disease – Information for Decision Makers* document (attached) particularly compelling.

If you would like to discuss Crohn’s & Colitis Australia’s proposal further, you can contact Leanne Raven CEO, at leanne@crohnsandcolitis.org.au.

Thank you for attention to this urgent matter that can prevent hardship to people with IBD and result in substantial cost saving to the Australian community. I look forward to your response.

[Sign off with your name and contact details]